

AS
as shown in Figure 8, and driven thereinto by needling or hydroentangling. Where the papermaker's fabric has been laminated, individual fibers of the staple fiber material, driven through the overlying layers, are the primary means by which the layers are attached to one another. In any case, this additional batt improves the structural integrity of the papermaker's fabric and reduces the risk of sheet marking.

[In the Claims:

Please rewrite claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of providing a laminated structure comprises the steps of:

providing the bottom layer, said bottom layer being a base for said laminated structure;

AL providing the top layer, said top layer being adapted to support a paper web in a paper machine;

forming a sandwich of said top and bottom layers, said bottom layer being transversely offset with respect to said top layer; and

attaching said top and bottom layers together to form said laminated structure.